

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

GRANDSTAFF *CG*

ROKOSCH *GR*

THOMPSON *AT*

CHILCOTT *CH*

DRISCOLL *DR*

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Members Present..... Commissioner Carlotta Grandstaff, Commissioner Jim Rokosch, Commissioner Alan Thompson, Commissioner Greg Chilcott and Commissioner Kathleen Driscoll

Date.....August 11, 2008

Minutes: Beth Perkins

► Commissioner Rokosch, Commissioner Driscoll, Commissioner Chilcott and Planning Staff held open office hours for input from citizens on the Countywide Zoning Process at Memories Café in Corvallis.

► The Board met with Rich Gangal, Director of Riverfront Counseling for an introduction and update. Present were Civil Counsel Karen Mahar, Fred Huskey, and Paul Meyer from Riverfront Counseling. Commissioner Grandstaff was not present for this meeting.

Karen stated she received a call from Paul regarding closing the beds available in Room 301 at Marcus Daly Hospital. She discussed the contract for next fiscal year with Riverfront Counseling fund increase for utilization of those beds for crisis stabilization. She further discussed the structural changes within Riverfront and crisis stabilization.

Paul stated they are not admitting people into the crisis beds at this moment because of difficulties within Riverfront staffing. He stated they do have a psychiatrist visiting from Missoula but not a medical provider. He explained this area is the highest risk for liability and they are looking for both a medical person and an on-staff psychiatrist. Karen asked if there is funding allocated to pay for an APRN and a psychiatrist. Paul replied they bill everything on a 15 minute basis. Right now their salaries would be funded with what they bring in. Karen asked if the beds would open once they are hired. Paul replied yes, the beds would be open.

Commissioner Thompson stated in these past few months the budget for mental health has been scary. The Board has to be careful with the funds to be allocated and the beds need to be up and functional. We need to move forward as soon as possible.

Paul stated it is a staffing issue at this point. Commissioner Chilcott stated the Board has a financial responsibility to the taxpayers. There is an exposure to the County to deal with more mental health cases than in the past while trying to not increase financial aspects and liability. Paul replied he understands this is a staffing issue and it has a ripple effect on the County. He stated as soon as they get a provider, they will open the beds.

Karen discussed proactive solutions in the meantime such as beds in Missoula. Fred stated those individuals on medication can utilize the crisis stabilization group home beds. Paul stated most people in crisis are given a choice between open situations or Warm Springs.

Karen stated Paul talked to the director at Share House and they are proposing a contract for detox beds. They have four beds and two are purchased by St. Patrick's Hospital. The idea behind it was instead of having an intoxicated person utilizing an ICU/ER bed; they could go to the beds at Share House. She stated there could be some use of those beds for the County at a reduced fee. She further stated her concerns with Room 301 and the continued increase of fees. The key is the detox beds would not take the people without an alcohol-drug screening. It would be a temporary solution in the meantime.

Paul stated the desire is to have those beds available to respond to the demand. He stated there is no one in the beds due to a lack of a medical provider. Karen stated Share House offered a three-month trial basis. Kevin Stewart would be the point of contact.

Commissioner Rokosch asked if Paul had any sense of responsibility to help the County out. Paul replied yes in some way due to the staffing issue. He would be willing to help with interim admissions during this period. Paul stated 60% of traffic to these facilities are new patients to the system and that is where the true liability lies. Commissioner Driscoll asked about transporting. Fred replied he does not know of any organizations working cooperatively for transportation.

Paul stated there is training for law enforcement officers to manage crisis situations. Karen stated of the commitments done in court, 25% are coherent enough to realize they are going.

Commissioner Chilcott stated there is a place needed for crisis intervention. Karen stated the option is to use Share House for detox. Commissioner Rokosch requested Paul to draft some possible options to review. Karen stated she would be willing to help facilitate discussions but Rich needs to draft a memo of the process in the meantime. She suggested another meeting in three months to touch base. Commissioner Rokosch stated the harsh reality is the budget for this fiscal year is constrained.

Rich introduced himself to the Board and gave his background. He stated if his transition had occurred prior to the middle of July, perhaps there would have been some time to notify the Board of the decision to remove the current medical provider. The Board thanked Rich for his commitment to a level of service.

Commissioner Chilcott stated there is a need for service and it has a cost. If the Board is going to pay it, he would rather it be with Riverfront Counseling Services. Rich stated the position should be filled by late fall. Commissioner Rokosch stated this is a cause for concern with budget approval the first week in September; however we are not sure what we can fund at this time. **It was the Board's consensus to have Commissioner Thompson be the contact person for the information from Rich Gangal and bring it to the Board by September 8th.**